

VITAL STATISTICS OF QUEENSLAND, MARCH QUARTER, 1957.Births (see Table 1).

Births registered in the first quarter of 1957 totalled 8,707, or 530 more than for the same quarter of 1956. The total was the highest ever recorded in any quarter in Queensland, the previous highest being 8,477 in the June quarter of 1956. However, the birth rate of 25.3 per 1,000 population, while being a substantial rise on the 24.2 for the corresponding quarter of 1956 and the highest quarterly rate for five years, was well below the 27.5 recorded in the first quarter of 1947, the highest in post-war years.

The 8,707 births registered in the quarter included 4,517 males and 4,190 females, giving a masculinity rate of 107.8 males per 100 females which was well above the normal rate of about 105.

Natural increase (excess of births over deaths) was 6,156 for the quarter, equivalent to an annual rate of 1.8 per cent. of the population.

There were 477 ex-nuptial births during the quarter, equal to 5.5 per cent. of all births registered. During the quarter 60 children were legitimated. Multiple births consisted of 86 sets of twins, comprising 78 male and 89 female live births and 5 still births, and two sets of triplets comprising 4 males and 2 females, all live born.

Marriages (see Table 2).

Marriages during the quarter numbered 2,544 (compared with 2,292 in the corresponding quarter of 1956), giving an annual rate of 7.4 per 1,000 population, compared with 6.8 for the first quarter of 1956. The first quarter usually records a low marriage rate, but the rate in the first quarter of 1957, although lower than that for the final quarter of 1956, was the highest first quarter's rate since 1952. The increased rate was somewhat unexpected in view of the tendency, pointed out in previous issues of this bulletin, for the marriage rate to decrease as an inevitable result of the high rates of the war and immediate post-war years. Although the proportion of minors married was still high, their numbers were not a significant contribution to the increased rate. 239 bridegrooms and 924 brides who were minors represented 9.4 and 36.3 per cent. respectively of the total marriages, compared with 9.2 and 37.1 per cent. in the preceding quarter, and 10.0 and 37.4 per cent. in the first quarter of 1956.

Deaths (see Tables 1 and 3).

Deaths registered during the quarter totalled 2,551, consisting of 1,489 males and 1,062 females. The equivalent annual death rate per 1,000 population was 7.4, compared with 7.7 recorded for the corresponding quarter of 1956, and was one of the lowest quarterly death rates ever recorded.

The summer quarter nearly always records a lower death rate than any other quarter, the beneficial effect of the season being most noticeable in four main groups of causes. Deaths in each of these four groups in the first quarter of 1957 (respiratory system, 128; heart disease, 663; other circulatory system, 169; and vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system, 308) were low and about normal for the quarter. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system (16), and from other infective and parasitic diseases (18), which are decreasing each year, were at a very low level. 96 deaths from diseases of the digestive system and 94 deaths from diseases of the genito-urinary system were also below normal. Deaths from malignant neoplasms, which are increasing in number each year, partly because of the gradually rising average age of the population, show little seasonal variation, and their first quarter 1957 total of 414 showed a continuation of the slow increase. Deaths from all other causes were about normal.

Infantile Mortality (see Tables 1 and 4).

Deaths of infants aged under one year numbered 176, of whom 98 were males and 78 females, compared with 199 (107 males and 92 females) in the corresponding quarter of 1956. Of these, 126 (72 males and 54 females) died during the first four weeks after birth. The infantile mortality rate for the March quarter of 1957 was 20.2, compared with 24.3 in the first quarter of 1956. It was the lowest rate ever recorded in any first quarter, the only lower rates on record being the 20.0 and 20.1 for the third quarters of 1956 and 1955 respectively, and the 20.0 for the second quarter of 1955.

The low infantile mortality rate was due to good rates in the metropolitan area (17.5) and in the rest of the sub-tropical area (20.0). Both of these rates were among the lowest quarterly rates ever recorded for these areas. The rate in the tropical part of the State (24.5) was much below the very high rate of 34.0 recorded in the first quarter of 1956, but nevertheless had been exceeded in only two other quarters during the last two years. A somewhat above normal total of 49 deaths from immaturity was more than offset by below-average figures for most other causes except pneumonia in infants aged 4 weeks and over.

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BRISBANE.

4th October, 1957.

Table 1 - Births and Deaths.

Usual Place of Residence.	Births.		All Deaths.		Deaths Under One Year.	
	First Quarter.		First Quarter.		First Quarter.	
	1956.	1957.	1956.	1957.	1956.	1957.
Metropolitan-						
City	288	361	210	174	13	4
North Side Inner Suburbs ..	309	385	173	166	4	11
North Side Outer Suburbs ..	639	662	185	150	18	12
Western Suburbs	283	302	86	75	3	3
South Side Inner Suburbs ..	193	206	83	57	5	5
South Side Outer Suburbs ..	584	664	168	168	9	11
Bayside	241	229	142	112	3	2
Rural	242	284	56	123	3	6
Total Metropolitan ..	2,779	3,093	1,103	1,025	58	54
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)-						
Bundaberg	134	121	50	39	4	1
Gympie	69	68	33	23	-	1
Ipswich	259	265	64	73	3	7
Maryborough	103	114	45	54	3	4
Toowoomba	247	293	96	103	6	5
Warwick	71	58	24	16	-	2
Total Sub-Tropical Cities	883	919	312	308	16	20
Total Sub-Tropical Towns ..	410	460	119	112	12	9
Total Sub-Tropical Shires ..	2,107	2,075	474	445	45	40
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) ..	3,400	3,454	905	865	73	69
Tropical-						
Cairns	148	167	25	56	7	6
Charters Towers	32	40	45	42	-	-
Mackay	117	111	36	47	3	8
Rockhampton	234	249	76	100	7	5
Townsville	237	256	108	86	13	3
Total Tropical Cities ..	768	823	290	331	30	22
Total Tropical Towns ..	85	87	35	21	6	2
Total Tropical Shires ..	1,145	1,250	266	309	32	29
Total Tropical	1,998	2,160	591	661	68	53
Total Occurring in Queensland	8,177	8,707	2,599	2,551	199	176
	Birth Rate. ^a		Death Rate. ^a		Infantile Mortality Rate. ^b	
Metropolitan-						
City	16.3	21.5	11.9	10.4	45	11
North Side Inner Suburbs ..	16.3	20.7	9.1	8.9	13	29
North Side Outer Suburbs ..	24.3	23.8	7.0	5.4	28	18
Western Suburbs	23.3	23.3	7.1	5.8	11	10
South Side Inner Suburbs ..	22.0	23.2	9.5	6.4	26	24
South Side Outer Suburbs ..	22.4	24.9	6.4	6.3	15	17
Bayside	26.4	23.9	15.5	11.7	12	9
Rural	22.6	24.9	5.2	10.8	12	21
Total Metropolitan ..	21.4	23.3	8.5	7.7	21	17
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)-						
Cities	24.8	25.2	8.8	8.4	18	22
Towns	26.5	28.8	7.7	7.0	29	20
Shires	26.5	25.8	6.0	5.5	21	19
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) ..	26.0	26.0	6.9	6.5	21	20
Tropical-						
Cities	24.4	25.5	9.2	10.2	39	27
Towns and Shires	27.3	29.1	6.7	7.2	31	23
Total Tropical	26.1	27.6	7.7	8.4	34	25
Total Queensland ..	24.2	25.3	7.7	7.4	24.3	20.2

a Equivalent annual rate per 1,000 population.

b Rate per 1,000 live births.

Table 2 - Marriages.

Place of Celebration.	Marriages.		Minors Married.		
	First Quarter.		First Quarter, 1957.		
	1956.	1957.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Metropolitan	1,044	1,125	92	331	423
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)-					
Bundaberg	49	64	5	26	31
Gympie	34	26	6	18	24
Ipswich	64	61	4	27	31
Maryborough	41	42	5	14	19
Toowoomba	137	135	20	46	66
Warwick	23	34	3	11	14
Total Sub-Tropical Cities ..	348	362	43	142	185
Other Sub-Tropical	342	448	45	209	254
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)	690	810	88	351	439
Tropical -					
Cairns	55	63	1	15	16
Charters Towers	19	16	2	5	7
Mackay	72	87	10	44	54
Rockhampton	110	98	16	44	60
Townsville	73	90	8	27	35
Total Tropical Cities ..	329	354	37	135	172
Other Tropical	229	255	22	107	129
Total Tropical	558	609	59	242	301
Total Queensland	2,292	2,544	239	924	1,163
	Marriage Rate. ^a				
Metropolitan	8.0	8.5			
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)-					
Cities	9.8	9.9			
Total	5.3	6.1			
Tropical-					
Cities	10.4	11.0			
Total	7.3	7.8			
Total Queensland	6.8	7.4			

a Equivalent annual rate per 1,000 population.

Table 3 - Causes of Deaths.

Class.	Cause of Death (International List, 1948 Revision).	First Quarter.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
		1956.	1957.	
1	Infective and Parasitic Diseases	41	34	-7
2	Neoplasms	423	425	+2
3	Allergic, Endocrine System, Metabolic, and Nutritional Diseases	67	60	-7
4	Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs	12	20	+8
5	Mental, Psychoneurotic, and Personality Disorders	23	16	-7
6	Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	345	367	+22
7	Diseases of the Circulatory System	859	832	-27
8	Diseases of the Respiratory System	131	128	-3
9	Diseases of the Digestive System	99	96	-3
10	Diseases of the Genito-urinary System	112	94	-18
11	Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium	7	4	-3
12	Diseases of the Skin and Cellular Tissue	8	11	+3
13	Diseases of the Bones and Organs of Movement	8	11	+3
14	Congenital Malformations	48	42	-6
15	Certain Diseases of Early Infancy	130	109	-21
16	Senility and Ill-defined Conditions	40	45	+5
17	Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	246	257	+11
	<u>Total All Causes</u>	2,599	2,551	-48
	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ^a	14	16	+2
	Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer, &c.) ^b	418	414	-4
	Vascular Lesions affecting Central Nervous System ^c	299	308	+9
	Heart Disease ^d	719	663	-56
	Nephritis and Nephrosis ^e	65	60	-5
	Accidental Deaths ^f	206	188	-18

a Included in Class 1.

c Included in Class 6.

e Included in Class 10.

b Included in Class 2.

d Included in Class 7.

f Included in Class 17.

Table 4 - Causes of Deaths of Infants Under One Year.

Cause of Death (International List, 1948 Revision).	First Quarter.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
	1956.	1957.	
Congenital Malformations	36	29	-7
Birth Injuries	23	24	+1
Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	21	14	-7
Immaturity	57	49	-8
Pneumonia of Newborn	-	3	+3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Newborn	2	-	-2
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	26	19	-7
<u>Total Diseases of Early Infancy</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>-27</u>
Pneumonia (Aged 4 weeks and over)	15	14	-1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Aged 4 weeks and over)	4	4	-
All Other Causes	15	20	+5
<u>Total Deaths Under One Year</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>-23</u>
Deaths Under Four Weeks	144	126	-18